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Kenya's Dedication to Rehabilitating the Mau Forest

The Director General of the Kenyan National Environment Management Authority, Dr. Muusya Mwinzi, is available for interviews regarding the Rehabilitation of the Mau Forest. If interested, please contact akplodzinski@clsd.com or 202-777-3518.

Kenya Takes the Reins on Climate Change - With climate change affecting every corner of the world, Kenya is taking direct actions to address its impact in East Africa. Specifically, Kenyan leaders are proactively working to address degradation of the Mau Forest through the National Environment Management Authority and the Climate Change and Coordination Unit.

The Degradation of the Mau Forest - The Mau Forest covers almost 5 million square feet and represents the single largest block of closed canopy indigenous forest in East Africa. The destruction of the Mau Forest due to timber harvesting, charcoal burning and illegal land trade is significantly contributing to the on-going climate change battle and depriving Kenyans of valuable water sources.

Continued destruction of the forests will lead to a water crisis that could extend far beyond the borders of Kenya. If encroachment and unsustainable exploitation of the forest ecosystem continues, it will only be a matter of time before the entire ecosystem is irreversibly damaged.

Kenya's Plan to Rehabilitate the Mau Forest - President Kibaki and Prime Minister Odinga are collaborating with the European Union to institute important environmental reform initiatives:

- o Allocate government funds for environmental protection programs
- o Establish programs and laws focused on the protection of trees on government and private land
- o Invest in environmentally friendly and renewable energy sources like geothermal, solar, wind and bio-fuel technologies.

The Kenyan government is prepared to restore much of the destroyed hectares to provide a better future for its people.

Interview with National Environment Management Authority - As the Director General of the National Environment Management Authority, Dr. Mwinzi is working with the Climate Change and Coordination Unit to provide sustainable environmental management in the Mau forest. Dr. Mwinzi has contributed several studies to the area of Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management. He holds a PhD in Biogeography and Nature Conservation from the University of Saarland, Germany and a Masters degree in Natural Resource Management and B.Sc. from the University of Nairobi.

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